

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 8, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2085

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 2085, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation."

The stated purpose of this bill is to add additional requirements on who can be appointed members of the Agribusiness Development Corporation's board of directors and requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit another plan to the Legislature before the 2009 regular session.

Micromanaging who can become board members of the Agribusiness Development Corporation would decrease the availability of persons able to serve, which, in turn, could jeopardize the filling of the seats on the board and the corporation's ability to meet its quorum requirements. There has been no evidence that current board members have not adequately represented agricultural interests in the community. Further, adding members with a distribution or transportation focus could divert the Agribusiness Development Corporation from its primary role of maintaining water and land resources for agriculture.

The requirement of the additional legislative report is not necessary. The 2007 Legislative Reference Bureau report entitled, "Agribusiness Development Corporation: Revisited," stated that there have been numerous studies and plans regarding

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agribusiness over the years. The report found that the focus of the Agribusiness Development Corporation should be the implementation of existing plans rather than the formulation of yet another plan. The Agribusiness Development Corporation's latest plan focuses on the transition of former plantation lands and water systems to those that will better support diversified agriculture and the development of facilities for diversified agriculture. The latest plan is consistent with the corporation's mission. The development of yet another plan will not further achieve the corporation's mission and will divert the time and talents of its small staff.

Finally, I would note the unanimous objections of the agricultural community to the content of this bill. Out of respect for and appreciation of their understanding of the real needs of the agricultural sector, this bill should not become law.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 2085 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii